



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY, TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Energy Policy Division

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July 7, 2004

Assistant Secretary David K. Garman
Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave.
Washington, DC 20585

Re: *2005 Appliance and Commercial Equipment Priority Setting*
Request to Discontinue Discussion of further "Covered" Products

Dear Assistant Secretary Garman:

We, in Washington State, are drafting proposed state legislation to set energy efficiency standards for a variety of products not currently covered by the U.S. Department of Energy's federal standards program. California has long established efficiency standards and a process for implementing standards for products not covered by the federal government. Our communities in the West Coast states need these energy savings from efficient products to help our economies and to extend the life of our existing energy infrastructure. We urge the Department of Energy to discontinue your efforts to add new products to those "covered" under the federal appliance standards programs. Instead, U.S. DOE's efforts and limited resources would be much better spent on updating the standards for products for which the Department already has explicit and pre-emptive legal authority.

Our concern is that the Department will list additional products to be "covered" by federal appliance standards, but will not commit the necessary staff and funds to ensure that new standards are promulgated in a timely fashion. We are also very concerned that no standard may exist for 4 to 7 years while you undertake the analysis and development process. U.S. DOE is typically operating with too few resources to effectively manage the standards for products already under your purview. It is our overwhelming preference that the Department update its standards for refrigerators and for the products for which the Department is already overdue such as residential dishwashers, furnaces, and some commercial equipment.

To identify any products as "covered" prior to completing a rulemaking process with a specific date for implementation would preempt the Western states from relying on their

existing or pending efficiency standards. This would mean increased electricity consumption, higher peak loads and greater energy expenditures for our citizens. We urge you not to list any additional products as “covered” by the Department prematurely. Only when funding and staff are fully committed and DOE has completed the rulemaking process for additional product should the Department list them as “covered”.

Thank you for your careful consideration of our comments. .

Sincerely,

Tony Usibelli
Director, Energy Policy

Cc: Barbara Twigg
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David Danner, State of Washington, Governor’s Executive Policy Office